

# The Orangeburg Democrat.

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## Branchville as it Was and as it is.

The following historical sketch of our thriving little sister town, Branchville, was prepared and read at the laying of the corner stone of the Methodist Church at that place by Rev. Dr. Thomas Ransom. He said: Seventy years ago the place where Branchville now stands—pulsating with life and trade—was a dismal swamp, known by the not very euphonic name of "Matchet's Pond." Through what is now Main street, flowed the waters of this pond to "pen branch," and on to the Edisto, made famous in history by Carolina's distinguished son, William Gilmore Simms, Esq., who lived ten miles above here, near Midway on the Charleston road. The people at this period were hardy and self-reliant. Their wants were few and simple. They lived mainly in pole houses, covered with clab-boards, and exercised a great deal in the open air. To walk three or four miles to church, or indeed to any gathering, and tout the baby, with the crop-eared, stump-tail dog behind, was considered no big job. It was of common occurrence. A large portion of the time was spent in fishing and hunting, attending corn-shuckings and quiltings, wrestling, jumping, shooting, and "wearing the thimble," what ever that was. These were days of peace and plenty—mince pies, floating islands, sick headaches, heart disease and dyspepsia were unknown. It is said the first deer that F. W. Fairley killed was routed where now stands the store of A. F. H. Dukes, a prominent and successful merchant of the place. After running through alligator hole, where lives the quiet and modest Dr. Grisset, he ran out by the squire, near where his mill pond now stands, and was shot down. The squire has always lived near Branchville, and his name is closely associated with the history of the place. He has gathered considerable wealth, and is to-day still energetic and enterprising. James Benton Berry, Esq., another veteran, still lives under the shadow of the town, of which he has owned a considerable portion. He enjoys a green old age, and furnishes the data that rescues Branchville from oblivion. To-day he is seeing the beginning of what has been the dream and ambition of his life; to wit: A Methodist church on one of his lots in the town of Branchville. Edward Myers, a quiet and peaceable citizen was the professional hunter and angler of the place. The first house built in Branchville was a double log pen, built by James Cooner for the railroad company. This was about the year 1830. The railroad track was laid at this place about 1831 by Mr. George Walker and Col. Thompson, gentlemen from Colleton County, who had the contract for building the road from Fifty-eight to the Edisto river. The first train of cars ran to this place in November, 1832. Tradition has it that when the first train arrived, a large number of persons, white and colored, were present to see the great sight. When it approached, like a thing of life, squirting water and belching forth volumes of black smoke, the men turned pale and the women screamed. An old woman is said to have exclaimed at the top of her voice, "It is the devil—see the fire and brimstone." Amid the greatest consternation she left, and when she reached her home fell exhausted at the gate. On this train came an enterprising Frenchman whose name was Philip Shartrand and his body servant, Fortune. He arranged with the company to open a hotel in the double pen house, where he did business until he built a larger and better house on the South side of the road for hotel and store purposes for himself. Here he did business until he built the brick house which now stands between the Columbia and Augusta tracks, and having recently been thoroughly renovated is an ornament to the place. The name of Shartrand is synonymous with Branch

ville, indeed he gave it this name, the first being Good Stove. Mr. Shartrand, after accumulating considerable wealth, died here in 1858. The first store house was put up by Mr. Wm. Fairley, the father of W. F. and J. D. D. Fairley, on the lot where now stands the store and dwelling of J. D. D. Fairley. This store was rented and opened by an Irishman from Charleston, whose name was McMaster. About this period Mr. James Grimes says whiskey was in great abundance, and was sold by the drink at 6 1-4 cents. Drunkenness, horse-racing and gambling were frequent occurrences. It was the custom about this time when a man married to have venison at the supper or dinner. He was considered an "unlucky dog" who came to his marriage feast without having venison to eat. When this occurred, the men would make witty remarks and the old women, adjusting their spectacles, would say, "Poor Sal, she is given to have a hard road to travel." Mr. James Grimes says he had the honor of killing the buck that graced the marriage table of James Benton Berry, Esq. In the year 1750 there came a large colony from Mecklenburg, Germany, and settled in New York. With this colony came the Ott family. A part of the family came to South Carolina, and some of them settled near Branchville, and the name has gone into history in connection with the place. Col. Ott, the father of the Doctor, who was prominent in Branchville affairs at this time, was a man of commanding presence, remarkable for firm sense and business sagacity. Previous to the year 1811—how long before we do not know—the Methodists worshipped in a little pole house one and a half miles northwest of Branchville. Of its history but little is known. It was built by N. Byrd, the parent stock of a large and respectable number of that name in and around the place. Division was caused in this church by one William Hoard organizing a singing school in the church. The result of this division was that on the 30th day of January, 1811, a lot was bought from George Hartsog for \$1, where now stands Sardis Church, one mile northeast from Branchville. The first church was a small frame building, which gave place in 1872 to a larger and more sightly one. The trustees of the first church were Rev. Jacob Barr, John Rhoad, Jessie Fairley, Robert McAlhany, John Felder, Joseph Hare and John Thompson. Of these, not one is living. In 1825 the first Sunday School was organized in Sardis Church by Jacob Pooser. He continued at the head of this school until 1850, when J. B. Berry became the superintendent; in 1874 it passed into the hands of B. P. Izlar, then J. W. Fairley, now E. E. Bruce. In 1825, says Mr. James Grimes, the Baptists built a church two and a half miles from Branchville, near where Mrs. Ann Dukes now lives. This church was called Orange. Thomas Adams was said to be its first pastor. The church was built and organized in the town in 1838. Rev. R. J. Edwards was its first pastor. Branchville had but little trade, small population and a rather dwarfed existence until the close of the late civil war. Several causes conspired to this: First, the railroad owning the land near the track would not sell lots for building purposes, and, second, the place being low and swampy it was thought it would be sickly. Since the war the lots have been sold, the place has been very thoroughly drained and Branchville has gone up, as if touched by a "magician's wand." A lady very much interested in the place said to the writer, not many years ago, that now the place was very healthy, though the people were inclined to be sick. To-day Branchville has 17 stores, 1 hotel, 2 boarding houses, 1 carriage shop, a town hall and a guard house. The trade is good and the population about

700. Dr. Ott, born and brought up near the place, and whose name is closely associated with it, is the leading physician. He moves about among us with his flowing white beard, having the confidence and esteem of the community. The prominent merchants are A. F. H. Dukes, J. D. Rhoad, Burns Myers, F. A. Bruce, D. D. Myers, J. Louis Berry, &c. The pastors of the churches are Rev. Thos. Ransom, Methodist, and Rev. Arthur Buist, Baptist. The depot and telegraph office is under the direction of Mr. J. R. Ligon, a model officer. The express office is in charge of Mr. James Grimes, a man remarkable for honesty and integrity. W. H. Reedish, Esq., a capable, accommodating and popular officer presides over the mail bags. Within the corporation is a steam saw mill, also a grist mill and gin run by steam, owned and worked by Messrs. Smoak & Byrd, two energetic and enterprising men. The wheelwright business is under the direction of S. S. Walters, a capable workman. W. B. Reeves, a true son of Crispin, works efficiently in leather. While Dr. R. Crum, our resident dentist, makes a comfortable living picking his neighbors' teeth. To-day, Sept. 8, 1880, we stand here in the presence of a large audience to lay the corner stone of the Methodist church—whose light meeting and blending with the light that shines from the Baptist Church on the opposite hill—will, under God we trust be the conservative influence and element that is to keep Branchville from the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah. Here we pause. What will be the record of seventy years to come?

## A Printer's Dream.

A printer sat in his office chair, his boots were patched, his coat threadbare, while his face looked weary and worn with care. While sadly thinking of business debt, old Morpheus slowly round him crept, and before he knew it he soundly slept; and, sleeping, he dreamed that he was dead, from trouble and toil his spirit had fled, and not even a cow bell tolled for the peaceful rest of his soul. As he wandered among the shades, the smoke and sear of lower Hades he shortly observed an iron door, that creakingly hung on its hinges ajar, but the entrance was closed by a red hot bar, and Satan himself stood peeping out, and watching for travelers thereabouts, and thus to the passing printer he spoke, and with growling voice the echoes awoke; "Come in, my dear, it shall cost you nothing and never fear; this is the place where I cook the ones who never pay their subscription sum, for though in life they escape they will find when dead it is too late; I will show the place where I melt them thin, with red hot chains and scraps of tin, and also where I comb their heads with broken glass and melting lead, and if of refreshing they only think there's boiling water for them to drink; there's the red-hot grind stone to grind down his nose, and red hot rings to wear on his toes, and if they mention they don't like the fire I'll sew up their mouths with red hot wire; and then, dear sir, you should see them squirm while I roll them over and cook to a turn." With these last words the printer awoke, and thought it all a practical joke; but still at times so real did it seem that he cannot believe it was all a dream, and often he thinks with a chuckle and grin of the fate of those who save their tin and never pay the printer.

An exasperating debtor at Redwood Falls, Minn., was hanged to a tree by a party of his creditors. When he was nearly dead, they lowered him and asked if he would pay. He feebly nodded his head; but on recovering breath enough to speak he said that he had no money. Then they pulled him up again, and came nearer to killing him than before. This time he did not hesitate, but immediately satisfied their claims.

## An Illinois Social Event.

CHICAGO, September 20.—One day last week a negro named Sam Monroe was married at Galesburg, Ill., to Miss Nettie Chase, a highly educated daughter of the late Dr. Chase, rector of the Episcopal Church at this place. Monroe had acted as coachman for the young woman's mother, and by some means exerted such influence over the girl as to persuade her to become his wife. The couple departed from Galesburg, and were found in a negro's cabin about ten miles distant from that town. The girl was taken care of and the negro was locked up on a charge of larceny. Excitement ran high in the town for several days, as the girl's brothers and sisters moved in the highest circles. This morning Miss Chase's brothers undertook to remove her to Peoria preparatory to sending her to a distant State. Monroe, who was on ball, and who had freely boasted of his conquest, appeared at the depot and demanded an interview with his wife. Approaching one of her brothers, whom he addressed as "Brother Horace," he was promptly knocked down. Monroe then drew a revolver and somebody in the crowd then placed a similar weapon in the irate brother's hands. Chase shot first and the negro fled. Another bullet followed him, grazed his cheek and passing through the arm of a by-stander. Chase was then arrested, the negro escaping unharmd. The Chases went to Peoria on the next train, but when the brothers return it is expected that the trouble will be renewed. *New York World.*

## A Thin Dodge.

A prominent merchant of this city received a day or two since a letter from a reputable and leading firm in New York asking if he had any Confederate bonds for sale.

The letter went on to offer 1-8 of 1 per cent., and stated that in the opinion of the writer the bonds would be worth 1 per cent., on the day that Hancock is elected, and would rapidly appreciate after that. It is unnecessary to say that the writer was a Republican.

The Atlanta merchant at once saw that the letter was a trick, and replied in proper strain. He said that he would not be guilty of selling a thing that he knew could never have any value, and that the owners had long since made up their minds to lose. He denounced the attempt of the Republicans to frighten the Northern voters by parading the Confederate bonds, as the weakest trick yet tried, and he knew that the bonds would never be paid unless the Republicans bought them up at a nominal price, and then made the government pay them to fill their own pockets.

There is no doubt, however, that the Republicans in the desperation that has seized them since the Maine election, will bring these bonds forward as the last resort. We have already printed a dispatch in which it was said they would soon be quoted on the stock board in Chicago. *Atlanta Constitution.*

Why should any one, after reading the returns from Maine—from Maine that formerly gave the Republicans 26,000 majority—why should any one doubt how Indiana is going in October? Look at the facts, and cease all doubting. In 1870 the Democracy of Indiana elected a Secretary of State by a majority of 5,566 votes. In 1872 the Indiana Democrats elected a Governor by 1,337 votes. In 1874 the Democrats of Indiana elected a Secretary of State by 17,252 votes. In 1876 the Democrats carried Indiana by 5,084 votes in the October election for the governorship, and by 5,515 votes in November for the Tilden electors. In 1878 the Democracy of Indiana elected a Secretary of State by 14,113 votes and this is the latest census of the voters of Indiana.

Next to a wife the easiest thing for a poor man to get in debt.

## An Honorable Man.

We are informed, on good authority, that last week a number of rich men waited on Gen. Hancock, and told him they would raise a quarter of a million dollars towards the legitimate expenses of his election if he would permit them to name the Secretary of the Treasury should he be elected President.

Gen. Hancock was told that while the Republicans were raising and spending vast sums of money in the campaign, and it was proposed to raise a million dollars by private subscription to insure the election of Garfield the Democratic committee had no funds to speak of, and is obliged to depend upon the spontaneous enthusiasm of the people for contributions.

Gen. Hancock listened to their statement with respect, and courteously replied: "Gentlemen, I must decline your offer. If elected to the Presidency I must take the office unpledged." That was the proper answer for a patriot. It was the decision of an honest man. Garfield gave himself away for \$329, and sold the hand that held "the purse strings of the nation" for a \$5,000 fee. General Hancock refused to mortgage a single seat in his Cabinet for \$250,000 even to insure his election to the Presidency. It requires no spectacles to see the difference between the two candidates.

The Republicans are carrying on their campaign with money. They have wrung every dollar they can press out of 100,000 Federal officers and employees. They are trying to raise a million more to buy votes in Ohio and Indiana. Marshall Jewell declared before the Republican conference in New York that he should conduct this campaign "on cash principles." This is Republicanism.

The Democratic committee has no funds to meet this expenditure of money by the Republican managers. It depends solely on the intelligence and patriotism and principle of the American people for support. And General Hancock, the Democratic candidate for President, the hero statesman, refuses to barter a single office for \$250,000, even though it might secure his election. Clay electrified the country by saying he would rather be right than President. It was left for Winfield Scott Hancock to refuse a quarter of a million dollars, and declare, "I enter the White House unpledged, or I enter not at all."

It is a subject not strictly speaking within the scope of journalistic discussion, but we think it proper to place on record an emphatic condemnation of the conduct of Mrs. Hazzard, of Illinois. The dispatches on Tuesday announced that she had presented Mr. Hazzard with five young Hazzards simultaneously. While commending the ambition evidenced to increase the census returns of her native State, we think we voice the sentiment of every head of a family in the land when we say that Mrs. Hazzard went entirely too far. We are sure that this is the opinion of Mr. Hazzard could it be ascertained. It is not by such extreme methods that a country is made free, happy and glorious, for moderation should govern in all things. Should any general disposition be manifested in this State to imitate Mrs. Hazzard, we shall certainly advocate some stringent statutory enactment on the subject. This portion of the Republic is certainly not prepared for any such innovations. *Greenville News.*

Two candidates for County Commissioner recently met at a certain bouee in Duford township. One of the obliging fellows was seen skipping backward and forth on the front piazza with a fretful baby in his arms singing lullaby songs to the mother's pet and the other manfully held the calf whilst the old lady milked the cow. *—Lancaster Review.*

Advertise in the DEMOCRAT.

## Blaine and Maine.

Never was there a more sensible remark than that of Mr. Blaine that if the Republicans are defeated in Maine Hancock will be elected. Let us see what was in his mind. There are 369 electoral votes. 183 elect the President. No fair man will deny that Hancock is certain to receive the following:

Alabama.....	10
Arkansas.....	6
Delaware.....	3
Florida.....	2
Georgia.....	11
Kentucky.....	12
Louisiana.....	10
Maryland.....	8
Missouri.....	15
Mississippi.....	8
New Jersey.....	9
New York.....	35
North Carolina.....	10
South Carolina.....	7
Tennessee.....	12
Texas.....	8
Virginia.....	11
West Virginia.....	5

Total.....182  
Which lacks three only of electing Hancock, if therefore, California 5, or Colorado 3, or Connecticut 6, or Indiana 15, or Nevada 3, or Pennsylvania 20, or Rhode Island 4, should vote for Hancock, he will be President. But Maine, 7, has already wheeled into the Democratic line and made further votes unnecessary. Therefore it was as Mr. Blaine said, if Davis is defeated Hancock is elected. He understood the case.

## Supports Hancock.

The following letter from Hon. Charles Francis Adams, President Lincoln's Minister to England, mis-carried in the mails, has just been received, but ages cannot take its point away:

John McKean, Edward Cooper and others:

QUINCY, August 6, 1880.  
GENTLEMEN: On my return from an excursion in Western New York I find yours of the 15th of July, doing me the honor to invite me to address a general meeting of the Democracy of the city of New York, assembled for the purpose of ratifying the nominations made by them for the highest offices under the government of the Union during the approaching term. These nominations appear to me unexceptionable, and I only hope that, if they should prove to be ratified by the voice of the people, they will not be again frittered away by fraud. I have no more to say.

Very truly yours,  
CHAS. FRANCIS ADAMS.  
That is what one of the founders of the Republican party has to say of the methods of the men, Garfield and his followers, into whose uncertain hands that party has fallen.

On the basis of the change in Maine taking the strength shown in 1876 as a fair point of departure, the Republicans will be beaten in California, by 12,000, in Colorado by 1,500, in Illinois by 35,000, in Nevada 1,000, in New Hampshire by 4,000, in Ohio by nearly 60,000, in Oregon by 2,000, in Pennsylvania by 60,000, and in Wisconsin by nearly 20,000, in the light of their own claims made on Monday morning they may expect, with unremitting diligence and energy in their work from this day forth, to secure 57 electoral votes out of 367 in November.

About LaGrange, N. C., there is not a word about Kansas and the other place this fall, among the darkies. Occasionally a refugee returns and others write to their friends for funds to help them back; but we hear none being sent. The darkies in North Carolina think it strange that their friends went out to get rich, and have got too poor to pay their way back. Sam Perry, their leader, did not prove to be a Moses.

Young man, if you want to catch a good fish in the matrimonial line, put the right kind of bait on your hook. You can't catch a shiner with a bit-on-hook.

The only housework some girls do is when they begin to dust around for a bean.